



A Common Story Ephesians 1:1-14 The Story of Us (Part 1)

THE BIG IDEA

All believers in Jesus are adopted into the family of God, and because of this, we share a common story with the believers in Ephesus, and all the people of God who have gone before us. The Story of Us, Glenkirk Church, is founded on the Common Story of the entire people of God – the story of a faithful God who has adopted us as children, redeemed us through Jesus, and sealed us by the Holy Spirit. This is our common story.

OPENING

- Can you think of a story from your family, friend group, or community that has shaped your identity or values?
- Why do you think shared stories are powerful in forming unity or purpose?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Ephesians 1:1-14 aloud. What words or phrases stand out to you? Why do you think Paul begins this letter by emphasizing God's blessings and our identity in Christ?
- Look up **Deuteronomy 7:6-9**. How does this description of Israel as God's chosen people compare to what Paul says about believers in Ephesians 1:4-5?
- Read **Exodus 12:1-13** (Passover story). How does the redemption of Israel through the blood of the lamb foreshadow what Paul says about redemption in Ephesians 1:7?
- Read **Isaiah 61:1-3**. In what ways does God's plan for Israel relate to the themes of grace, redemption, and inheritance in Ephesians 1:9-10?
- Read **Galatians 3:26-29**. What does this passage say about unity in Christ and how does it support Paul's message in Ephesians 1:12-14 & Ephesians 4:3-6?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Throughout the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul draws parallels between the story of Israel and the story of all believers in order to give them a shared story and identity. How does seeing yourself as part of this larger story shape your understanding of who you are?



- Paul emphasizes unity among believers, regardless of their backgrounds (Jew or Gentile). How can you work toward greater unity within your church or community?
- If every believer is redeemed to bring God glory (v. 6), how can your daily life reflect this purpose?

PRAYER REQUESTS